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weather being extremely bad, the party remained for thirty-five hours without food under the shelter of a rock. Too exhausted to proceed, the explorers killed their dog and were about to eat the flesh when they saw a sailing boat on the fiord east of Proeven (near Upernivik in latitude  $72^{\circ}$  N.). By means of shots and signals they were able to attract the attention of those on board, by whom they were taken to Proeven. The expedition met one misfortune after another, and that the leaders under all discouragements pushed the undertaking through along original lines supplies a most remarkable record of courage, persistence and endurance. Some of their horses escaped, Dr. Wegener had the misfortune to break a rib and Captain Koch a leg which kept him in bed for three months. They started out upon the crossing on April 20, but their progress was much impeded by powerful westerly winds and driven snow which caused the pack horses much suffering. The last nunatak (rock island within the ice) of the group on the east coast was passed in longitude  $27^{\circ}$  west. The greatest altitude of the ice dome was met in longitude  $42^{\circ}$  west or on the western side of the medial line of the continent whereas all crossings hitherto have shown the highest point of the ice dome to be to the eastward of the medial line. The land of the west coast was first sighted on July 2, but the surface streams and morasses of thaw-water offered such difficulties that two weeks longer were required to make the coast, the last horse and the last dog being killed for food. The junior leader of the expedition, Dr. Wegener, is a meteorologist of reputation and has published many monographs and a general text upon the free atmosphere. According to the *Geographical Journal*, from which many of these data are gleaned, the highest point along the route of the expedition was about 9,000 feet above sea level.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE Massachusetts Institute of Technology will receive about \$100,000 as the residuary

legatee of the late Frederick W. Emory, of Boston.

A BEQUEST of approximately £250,000, is made in the will of the late Mr. W. Gibson, of London and Belfast, to institute a scheme for providing sons of farmers of counties Down and Antrim with educational advantages.

PROFESSOR JOHN PERRY, of the Royal College of Science, South Kensington, has been appointed a member of the South African University Commission which is to investigate matters connected with higher education and to consider the conditions under which the Wernher and Beit donations and bequests for the purposes of the proposed University of South Africa may best be utilized. The other members of the Commission are Sir Percival Maitland Laurence, formerly judge president of the Supreme Court of South Africa, who is the chairman, ex-Justice Melius de Villiers and the Rev. Mr. Bosman.

MR. ALAN G. HARPER, of Magdalen College, Oxford, demonstrator to the Sibthorpe professor of rural economy, has been appointed to the Indian Education Service as professor of botany at the Presidency College, Madras, during the absence on leave of Professor Fyson.

MR. ALEXANDER MCKENZIE, head of the chemistry department of Birkbeck College, London, has been appointed professor of chemistry in University College, Dundee, in succession to the late Professor Hugh Marshall.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

##### A PROPOSED RE-ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS FOR THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

ONE feature of the American Association for the Advancement of Science meetings which causes some inconvenience, to say the least, especially in recent years since the average attendance has passed the thousand mark, is the congested and heterogeneous character of the sectional programs. In some of the sections, as at present constituted, the large number of papers offered makes it necessary to restrict or eliminate discussions, thus defeating the main object of reading a scientific paper